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SUBJECT: BRAZIL: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES SECURITY, CN, AND UPCOMING GAMES WITH GSI MINISTER FELIX

CLASSIFIED BY: Thomas Shannon, Ambassador, State; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: Institutional Security Office (GSI) Minister General Jorge Felix shared with Ambassador Shannon on February 9 Brazil's top security concerns, which include: assistance and cooperation in Haiti; increased drug trafficking in the region and consumption in Brazil; and security for the four upcoming sporting events to be hosted by Brazil, to include the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics. Felix encouraged deepening the existing partnership between Brazil and the U.S. on providing assistance to Haiti. He expressed his concerns with the difficulties Brazil is experiencing in counternarcotics efforts in the region, particularly with Bolivia. Felix candidly told the Ambassador that terrorism and drugs are constant security worries for Brazil, and said Brazil will look for intelligence sharing during the 2011-2016 sporting events. END SUMMARY.

LOOKING TO ENHANCE POSITIVE PARTNERSHIP ON HAITI

¶2. (C) Ambassador Shannon on February 9 met with the Institutional Security Office Chief, General Jorge Felix, Deputy General Geromel, and Secretary General Fernando de Lima Santos. Ambassador Shannon thanked Felix for Brazil's long-term work in Haiti and MINUSTAH and for its post-earthquake assistance and partnership with U.S. forces on the ground. Ambassador Shannon also highlighted the new opportunity presented in Haiti for Brazil, the United States, and the UN to work together. Felix said that Brazil's history and experience with Haiti has helped in providing emergency assistance. However, assisting Haiti is a challenge too great for just a few countries to handle. Felix explained that Brazil's permanent assistance to Haiti over the years has not improved the situation on the ground. While security has improved in Haiti, assistance has not taken Haitians out of the misery they live in. The next phase of assistance to Haiti needs to focus on helping Haitians provide for themselves, said Felix; we need to "teach them to fish instead of giving them the fish." Felix explained that what has been coined in the media as President Lula's "Bolsa Haiti" is actually a series of projects that were implemented or planned by Brazil to promote development in Haiti.

¶3. (C) Felix stated that Brazil's next steps on Haiti include the Haiti Donors meeting. Brazil will bring its proposals to the meeting but Felix emphasized the need for partnership with the U.S.

and active participation and commitment by the Haitian government to successfully assist Haiti. Felix also confirmed that Lula will be traveling to Haiti on February 25 to present Brazil's proposals to the Haitian government. The Ambassador highlighted the importance of coordinating our actions and understandings in the run-up to the donors conference. Felix agreed and added that it would be very useful if Brazil and the U.S. show up at the Haiti Donors meeting with coordinated ideas. Felix closed his comments on Haiti by recalling that he has been to Haiti several times and at every departure he leaves his hope for Haiti behind. The situation in Haiti, he said, is too difficult to improve, "but we have to try."

GSI LISTS ITS TOP SECURITY CONCERNS

¶ 14. (C) Felix reciprocated the Ambassador's willingness to cooperate, especially on security issues, adding that GSI "wants to be part of the solution, not the problem." Felix explained that there are many areas of great interest to GSI that could be better addressed with a deeper partnership with the United States, including critical infrastructure protection, information security, and the constant problems of terrorism and drugs. Felix noted that

critical infrastructure protection is something they should likely discuss with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and information security, which is now a top concern for most countries, is an issue he would like to better address by getting Brazilian and U.S. technical folks together and by deepening relationships with private U.S. firms that have successfully dealt with cyber threats.

BOLIVIA AND COUNTERNARCOTICS

¶ 15. (C) The Ambassador noted that organized crime and drugs is also a great security concern for the United States. Political changes in the region, however, had complicated traditional U.S. cooperation programs. In this kind of environment, the Ambassador said, cooperation with Brazil was more important than ever. Felix described Brazil's difficult experiences with Bolivia and emphasized the importance of addressing the issue of organized crime and the drug trade in Latin America. Felix explained that Bolivian cocaine, coca paste, and crack are low in quality and cheap-therefore unacceptable for sale in the United States and Europe-and have instead infiltrated Brazil. This has led to an explosive increase in consumption among Brazilians, which also coincided with the increase of coca cultivation in Bolivia. Brazil shares a 3,400 km border with Bolivia, Felix said, which makes monitoring almost impossible, especially because traffickers frequently change their drug routes. Now that the Brazilian government has been able to decrease the number of drug flights from Bolivia, by increased monitoring, there has been a noticeable increase in trafficking via vehicles.

¶ 16. (C) Felix complained about how hard it is to work with other countries in the region on counternarcotics. He told the

Ambassador, "You saw how difficult it is to work with Bolivia," and explained that Bolivia's complex and unique history has led it to the transition it is still experiencing today, and "no one knows

where the transition will take them." Felix said Brazil has tried to work with Bolivia on several issues. According to Felix, after Bolivia expelled DEA, the GOB wanted Brazil to step in, even substitute, the role the United States had played in counternarcotics efforts. But in practice cooperation did not work. Felix explained that, although Brazil had had greater influence in Bolivia in the past, the relationship had matured and Brazil now has to negotiate more with Bolivia.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND GAMES

¶7. (C) Felix also listed the four upcoming sporting events Brazil will host as top security challenges to tackle. Felix noted that while most attention is being paid to the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics, Brazil will also first host the Military World Games in 2011 and the Confederations Cup (a soccer tournament organized by FIFA) in 2013; these smaller events, Felix remarked, will help prepare Brazil for the larger 2014 and 2016 competitions. Felix said Brazil will make intelligence-sharing among the countries participating in the events a priority. He noted that Brazil had already experienced successful intelligence sharing during the 2007 Pan American Games-hosted by Rio de Janeiro-and that they plan on doing the same for the upcoming events but on a larger scale. Felix concluded that "we very much need cooperation with the United States and other games participants" to ensure successful and safe celebrations. (Comment: The intelligence sharing during the 2007 Pan American Games was a lopsided arrangement. The USG provided extensive resources and information to the Brazilian hosts, yet

received no information beyond what was shared with all other nations participating in the Games. End comment.)

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